

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 20 wherein said plurality of apertures comprises a plurality of elongated openings provided in spaced-apart relationship with respect to each other in said liner.
3. (Currently amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 20 wherein said container is further defined by ~~a container wall and a container bottom~~ closing one end of said container wall and wherein said vacuum-producing device is provided on said container bottom.
4. (Currently amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 2[[20]] wherein said plurality of elongated openings extend ~~are elongated extending~~ in a direction between said rim and said closed liner bottom provided in spaced-apart relationship with respect to each other in said liner.
5. (Currently amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 20 wherein said container ~~hasis defined by a container wall and a container bottom closing a first one end of said tubulareontainer wall~~ and wherein said means for withdrawing air ~~vacuum-producing devicee~~ is provided on said tubulareontainer wall.
6. (Currently amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 20 wherein said plurality of ~~said apertures~~ isare provided in spaced-apart parallel relationship with respect to each other in said liner.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 20 further comprising a perforated container lid;
~~for removably closing said liner and said the container further including and wherein said container is defined by a container wall, a closed container bottom closing one end of said container wall and a container flange extending around an the opposite end of the tubular said container wall opposite the closed bottom; and~~
the closed said liner is defined by a liner wall, a liner bottom closing one end of said liner wall, said liner bottom spaced from said container closed bottom to define the said annular spaceannulus and

a liner flange provided on the rim of the opposite end of said liner wall from said liner bottom, the said liner flange structured and arranged to engage the engaging said container flange for removably receiving the said container lid; and

wherein said means for withdrawing air vacuum-producing device is mounted on said container closed bottom.

9. (Currently amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 20 comprising a perforated container lid; ~~for removably closing said liner and said the container further including and wherein said container is defined by a container wall, a container bottom closing one end of said container wall, a container flange extending around an the opposite end of said tubular container wall opposite a closed bottom end, and~~

said liner further including ~~is defined by a liner wall having a liner flange on the rim~~, said liner wall spaced from said ~~tubular container wall~~ to define said annular space ~~annulus~~ and

said liner flange structured and arranged to engage ~~engaging~~ ~~said container flange~~ for removably receiving said container lid; and

wherein said means for withdrawing air ~~vacuum-producing device~~ is mounted on said container wall.

10-19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently amended) A vacuum-operated trash receptacle comprising:

a container having a tubular wall and an upper opening thereto through a rim of said wall ~~and a closed bottom~~;

a liner having a tubular wall, ~~and having~~ a top opening at a rim of said wall, and a closed bottom and disposed for placement in said container through the opening of the container;

said liner adapted for receiving a trash bag through the opening of said liner;

said liner dimensioned for insertion within said container with said liner opening in a fixed relation to said container opening and to thereby form an annular space between said liner wall and said container wall;

said liner wall having a plurality of apertures around and down its tubular wall from a location proximate said opening to a location proximate said closed bottom, said openings communicating from the interior of said liner to said annular space when said liner is inserted into said container;

an exhaust aperture through the container~~ene of said~~
~~contained wall and bottom~~; and

means for withdrawing air from said annular space through the apertures through said exhaust aperture wherein air pressure is reduced in said annular space and the trash bag is forcefully deployed against and down said liner wall responsive to operation of said air withdrawing means.

21. (Previously presented) A liner for a vacuum-operated trash receptacle container having a tubular wall and an upper opening thereto through a rim of said wall and a closed bottom, an aperture through one of said container wall and bottom, and means for withdrawing air through the aperture, said liner comprising:

a tubular wall and having a top opening at a rim of said wall thereof and a closed bottom and disposed for placement in said container through the opening of said container;

said liner adapted for receiving a trash bag through the opening of said liner;

said liner dimensioned for insertion within said container with said liner opening in a fixed relation to said container opening and to thereby form an annular space between said liner wall and said container wall from a location proximate to the opening;

said liner wall having a plurality of apertures around and down its tubular wall, said openings communicating from the interior of said liner to said annular space when said liner is inserted into said container;

wherein in operation air pressure is reduced in said annular space by said air withdrawing means and the trash bag is

Application No. 10/822,928
Filed: April 13, 2004
TC Art Unit: 3781
Confirmation No.: 4439

forcefully deployed against said liner responsive to operation of
said air withdrawing means.